

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02749 141615Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01

IO-10 EUR-12 /081 W

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O R 141500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 2749

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US MIL

SUBJECT: PRESS CONTINUES REACT TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

REF: CAIRO 2714

FROM MAESTRONE

1. FOLLOWING UP ON PREVIOUS DAY'S FRONT PAGE REPORTS THERE
WERE EDITORIALS IN BOTH AL AHRAM AND AL AKHBAR MAR 14 ON REPORT
OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST. MAIN
AHRAM EDITORIAL SAID SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, "WHICH SUPPORTED
EVENHANDED POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST, PROVES THAT ARAB INFORMATION
MEDIA ARE CAPABLE OF CORRECTING MISCONCEPTIONS WHICH PREVIOUSLY
APPEARED BEYOND CHANGE. PAST DIFFICULTY IN CHANGING MISCONCEPTIONS
WAS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ARAB INFORMATION MEDIA BUT TO DOMINATION
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02749 141615Z

OF AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS BY ZIONIST CIRCLES." EDITORIAL CON-

TINUES "MANY AMERICAN LEGISLATORS HAVE VISITED MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY ON FACTFINDING MISSIONS IN WHICH THEY HAVE HAD WIDE CONTACTS WITH OFFICIALS NOT ONLY IN ISRAEL BUT ALSO IN THE ARAB WORLD. THESE VISITS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN REDEFINING THESE LEGISLATORS' ATTITUDES AND PLACING THEM ON A MORE OBJECTIVE BASIS. VISITS HAVE REFUTED PREMISE THAT ALL PREJUDICES ARE DEEPLY ROOTED. OCT WAR AND RISE OF ARAB VOICES AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL HAVE HAD IMPACT ON SITUATION".

2. IN A FURTHER COLUMN IN AHRAM BY NEWLY APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALI HAMDI AL GAMMAL, REPORT WAS DESCRIBED AS REFLECTING A BIG CHANGE IN AMERICA'S POLICY IN THE AREA. GAMMAL CALLED FOR AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THOSE IN AMERICAN WHO ARE NOW BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT ARAB RIGHTS.

3. AL AKHBAR EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT "REPORT PRESAGES A WIND OF CHANGES IN CONGRESS. FORMERLY ARMS AID TO ISRAEL PASSED AS A MATTER OF COURSE ON VERY GENEROUS TERMS, WITH CONGRESSMEN VYING WITH EACH OTHER TO OUTDO THEMSELVES IN OFFERING MORE AND MORE TO ISRAELI WAR MACHINE. A SHIFT HAS COME ABOUT GRADUALLY IN FACE OF STIFF ZIONIST OPPOSITION, A RESULT OF RESURGENCE IN ARAB ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWER AFTER OCTOBER WAR. PREMISE THAT ISRAEL WAS WATCHDOG GUARDING AMERICAN INTERESTS HAS BEEN NEGATED SINCE OCT WAR IMPRESSED UPON AMERICANS ISRAEL HARDLY CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF MUCH LESS OVERSEEING US INTERESTS... ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN WEAKENED POLITICALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY ON WORLD AND REGIONAL LEVELS AND NOW THERE ARE INTERNAL DIVISIONS WHICH HAVE COME TO THE SURFACE". EDITORIAL ADDS "CHANGE IN AMERICAN ATTITUDES HAS COME ABOUT THROUGH MOUNTING ARAB STRENGTH ON THE ONE HAND AND GRADUAL WEAKENING OF ISRAELI POSITION ON OTHER".

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ZIONISM, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO02749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750090-0222
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750351/aaaabtqb.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAIRO 2714
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolfhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by woolfhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS CONTINUES REACT TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006